EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School launches steel drum band

January 21, 2025 . 4:00 PM — 1 min read

The Winchester Community Music School and its newest instructor, Debra Sarjeant Smith, are forming a steel drum band. Classes start Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Winchester Recreation Department, 263 Main St., Winchester. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music Sc

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Greater Boston is known as something of a music mecca, but in one respect, it has always been lacking: steel drums.

There are precious few classes or bands for anyone who has fallen for the lilting sound of handcrafted steel “pans" and their rich Caribbean island heritage. But now Winchester Community Music School (WCMS) and its newest instructor, Debra Sarjeant Smith, are filling that void.

“We’re so fortunate to have Debra join our faculty,” says Laurie Russell, the school’s executive director. “Like most of our teachers, she is also an award-winning performing artist, and she will bring both expertise and enjoyment to our students who want to learn and play steel drums.”

No music experience is required for the new WCMS Steel Drum Ensemble, which is open to teenagers and adults and begins Wednesday, Feb. 5. It is being held in partnership with the Winchester Recreation Department and will meet in their classroom space at 263 Main St., Winchester.

“I’ve been looking for a group like this since I moved to this area three years ago,” says Jake Miller, who played with a 40-person steel band at Miami University. “I’ve already met several of the folks who will be in the ensemble, and everyone’s been having tons of fun just trying this out for the first time. We will have all levels of musical experience in the ensemble, and that’s one of the great things about steel drums: everyone can play a part that matches their current level, and that expands as they learn."

WCMS will host a free meet-up on Wednesday, Jan. 22, for adults and teenagers who’d like to meet the drums and give them a try. Sign-ups are open now, and registration for the ensemble is also open.

For more information, contact WCMS at wcms@winchestermusi
781-721-2950.

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Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence hosting 23rd Trivia Bee

Winchester's brightest fifth graders and adults will gather soon to compete in a fierce trivia competition that will raise money for Winchester schools. The Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE), a nonprofit that provides grants for Winchester's public schools, will host its 23rd annual trivia bee March 11

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February 24, 2026

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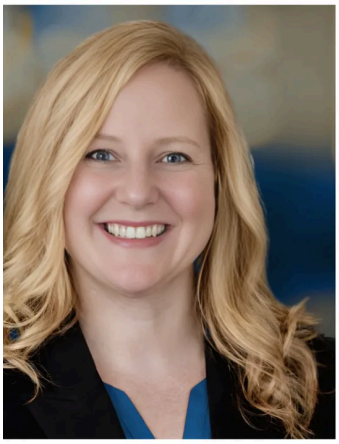

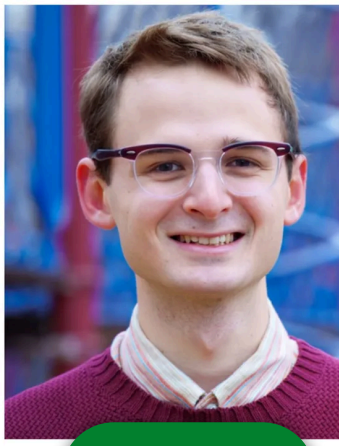

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Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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